



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**Taxation and Revenue Department**  
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**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*  
**Jan Goodwin**  
*Secretary*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 10, 2007

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**New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Hearing Bureau Begins DWI Night Court Program**

SANTA FE – Beginning in March 2007 the Hearing Bureau will begin a pilot night court program for our Implied Consent/DWI hearings scheduled in Albuquerque. This effort is undertaken as part of a comprehensive effort to address the increased volume of DWI cases handled by the Bureau in Bernalillo County.

Secretary of Taxation and Revenue Jan Goodwin noted the new changes. "We have hired a new hearing officer in Albuquerque. This additional hearing officer will be devoted in part, to the night court program, in which a percentage of hearings will be scheduled on weekday evenings." The Department hopes that drivers, their legal representatives and law enforcement will have expanded opportunities to attend and participate in hearings in a broadened scheduling framework. The expectation is that this effort will also decrease the amount of time needed for scheduling and conducting Implied Consent hearings and that more cases will be heard. Over 5,417 hearings were conducted in calendar year 2005, with the number of DWI arrests totaling 18,447.

"I believe these changes will be useful in reducing the burden of APD officers and ultimately in reducing dismissals at Metro Court," remarked Rachel O'Connor, State DWI Czar. Currently, seven full time hearing officers employed by the Department conduct hearings. This reflects an increase of two hearing officers from 2005. Early this year, the Department expects to be fully staffed with eight full-time Implied Consent hearing officers. Despite its complexities and increasing caseloads, the administrative revocation process remains an effective partner in the battle for reduced incidents of DWI in New Mexico.